

REMARKS

In the present office action, claims 1-13 and 15-18 are pending. Claims 1-13, and 15-18 were rejected. Claims 1-5 are hereby amended and claims 19 is added. Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request reconsideration and further examination thereof.

The Examiner objected to the specification for failing to provide an abstract of the invention. By this amendment, an abstract, substantially identical to that presented on the cover page of WO 01/04661, is added. [It is noted that WO 01/04661 is the PCT publication of the present patent application. This abstract adds no new matter and was, in fact, originally presented to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as part of the June 26, 2002 filing of the present patent application.

Claims 1-12 and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant believes that the amendments to claims 1-5 address the Examiner's concerns and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of claims 1-12 and 15-17.

Claims 1-4, 9, 12, 13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,443,228 to Aronstam et al. (the '228 Patent). Claims 5-8, 10-11, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '228 Patent. In the May 6, 2003, Applicant presented a declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 by William Wang to establish conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the '228 Patent. Applicant is currently preparing a supplemental affidavit that will overcome the Examiner's objections to this previously presented affidavit.

In view of these amendments, Applicants submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not anticipate or make obvious the present invention as presently claimed. Applicants therefore believe that claims 1-13 and 15-19 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests reconsideration and further consideration of the application.

If the Examiner has any questions or believes that a discussion with Applicants' attorney would expedite prosecution, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Applicant has authorized the Commissioner to charge the two-month extension fee and Request for Continued Examination to Deposit Account Nº. 19-0615 in the documents submitted herewith. Should this amount be incorrect or additional fees be due as a result of the amendments presented herewith, Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge or credit any deficiency/overpayment to Deposit Account Nº. 19-0615.

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Respectfully submitted,

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